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A.—(a) Yes.
(b) The question is under consideration.
(c) Does not arise.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask when the Government will be in a position to come to a conclusion in the matter referred to in (b) of the question ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I do not think that I can make a prophecy; but I can promise that I will expedite the matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know what steps the hon. Minister is taking to arrive at a conclusion ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"At present we are receiving information from two opposite sources, one side pressing abolition of honorary assistant registrars and another saying that their continuance is absolutely necessary."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I trust the hon. the Minister will not be carried by merely 'the volume of opinions.'"

Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars.

* 329 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : With reference to question No. 1431 answered at the meeting of the 5th December 1924, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government appointed the gentleman to be the Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars without making any inquiries whatever about his fitness or otherwise for the post and if the Government have no information whether they will call for it ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 1149 asked on the 12th November 1924. No appointments of honorary assistant registrars are made without inquiry.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know whether the particular gentleman is an active member in the co-operative department ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—'He was and is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I wish to know whether he is at present ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"I think he is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"May I know how many societies have been started by him ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"He was only appointed recently."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Labour.

Coolies employed in the Nilgiris district.

330 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of estates and of coolies employed therein in the Nilgiris ;

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(*b*) whether qualified medical officers are employed in these estates ;

(*c*) whether schools are maintained in these estates ; if so, in how many ;

(*d*) how many cases of the coolies running away from the estates have been brought to the notice of the Magistrate ;

(*e*) the reasons for their so running away ; and

(*f*) whether there is suitable housing accommodation for these coolies ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information as regards the total number of estates in the Nilgiris. The number of coolies employed there is 12,000.

(*b*) On the larger estates there are hospitals or dispensaries in charge of apothecaries or sub-assistant surgeons. Smaller estates utilize the hospitals in adjoining estates and the services of the medical officers attached thereto.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (2) of question No. 997 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in October last. There is no information regarding the number of estates in which schools are maintained.

(*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement on page 5 of G.O. No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

(*f*) All labourers except members of the jungle tribes are housed free in brick, stone or laterite buildings roofed with tiles or iron.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Forests.

Recruitment to the Indian Forest Service.

331 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a notification in the Development Department in the *Fort St. George Gazette* that four officers of the Indian Forest Service have been appointed by the Secretary of State and have arrived at Bombay ;

(*b*) whether the Local Government made any recommendations for the recruitment of these officers ; and

(*c*) what the appointments are which have necessitated this recruitment to the Imperial Service from England ?

A.—(*a*) The notification was issued by the Government in the Development Department.

(*b*) The Government were consulted as to the number of officers of the Indian Forest Service to be allotted to this Presidency in 1924.

(*c*) The Indian Forest Service in this Presidency was 13 short of the sanctioned cadre at the end of 1924. The officers in question were recruited to fill four of these vacancies.